

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7638

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN JA

SUBJ: ROKG ASKS JAPANESE TO CURB CHOSEN SOREN INTIMIDATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTING ROK FONMIN SEPTEMBER 21 ASKED JAPANESE TO CURB KIDNAPPING OF DISAFFECTED CHOSEN SOREN (CHORYON) AFFILIATED KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN BY CHORYON MEMBERS AND URGED EARLY RATIFICATION OF JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION I CHIEF YI TONG-IK CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER YUN HA-CHUNG HAD CALLED IN JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA SEPTEMBER 21 TO ASK THAT JAPANESE INVESTIGATE REPORTED "KIDNAPPING" OF FORMER CHOSEN SOREN (CHOYRON) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER O TANG SEPTEMBER 13. YUN POINTED OUT THAT THREE KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN HAD RECENTLY BEEN KIDNAPPED BY CHOYRON. HE THEN ASKED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TAKE APPROPRIATE PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR FORMER CHOYRON MEMBERS WHO DECIDED TO VISIT THE ROK OR JOIN THE PRO-ROK MINDAN. ACCORDING TO YI, YUN CHARACTERIZED KIDNAPPING OF O AS A SEVERE INFRINGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. YUN ALSO RAISED STILL UNRATIFIED JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT AND URGED EXPEDITIOUS DIET ACTION. YI SAID NISHIYAMA RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT ROKG CONCERN TO TOKYO.

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2. YI SAID O HAD APPLIED FOR A ROK PASSPORT AND HAD JUST FINISHED A MEETING WITH ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT KOREA HOUSE IN TOKYO WHEN HE WAS SPIRITED AWAY BY CHOYRON MEMBERS. O'S WIFE, DAUGHTER OF A NORTH KOREAN CABINET MEMBER AND HERSELF A CONVINCED COMMUNIST IDEOLOGUE, APPARENTLY ASSISTED THE KIDNAPPERS ACCORDING TO YI. ROK EMBASSY TOKYO HAS ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONTACT O SINCE THE KIDNAPPING. ROKG IS CONCERNED THAT O'S WIFE WILL FRUSTRATE ANY ATTEMPT BY JAPANESE POLICE TO FREE O FROM CHOYRON HOUSE ARREST. MEANWHILE THEY ASSUME O WILL BE UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO REVERSE HIS DECISION TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA.

3. ROK PRESS NOTES THAT NORTH KOREAN SHIP MANGYONGBONG-HO WILL ARRIVE YOKOHAMA SEPTEMBER 29 AND WILL LEAVE FOR NORTH KOREA SEPTEMBER 30. ROKG IS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED THAT O WILL BE SHIPPED TO NORTH KOREA ABOARD THIS SHIP.

4. O'S PROBLEMS BEGAN AFTER HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY MINDAN REPRESENTATIVES IN TOKYO, APPARENTLY AT KCIA INSTIGATION, AND PERSUADED TO VISIT THE ROK. HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13 DURING WHICH HE ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO VISIT SEOUL. AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED, O HELD ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 20 IN WHICH HE REVERSED HIS SEPTEMBER 13 POSITION. ACCORDING TO YI TONG-IK, JAPANESE POLICE ARE NOW INVESTIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES OF O'S KIDNAPPING AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: NORTH KOREANS ARE OBVIOUSLY BEING HURT BY ROK HOME VISIT PROGRAM WHICH, ACCORDING TO ROKG OFFICIAL FIGURES, HAS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN APRIL 1975 ATTRACTED OVER 5,000 KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN TO THE ROK (1,074 IN 1975). IN ADDITION TO O, A MISS KANG YONG-HI (NISHIYAMA HIDEKO) AND A MR. CHIN SANG-OK HAVE ALSO BEEN KIDNAPPED. CHIN'S WHEREABOUTS ARE STILL UNKNOWN. IF CHOYRON INTIMIDATION CONTINUES UNCHECKED, IT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT HERETOFORE SUCCESSFUL ROK HOME VISIT EFFORT. END COMMENT. STERN

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